

REMARKS

Claims 2 – 17 are pending in the present Application. Claim 8 has been canceled, Claims 11 and 16 has been amended, leaving Claims 2 – 7 and 9 – 17 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Amended Claims

Claim 11 was amended to correct for an inadvertent typographical error and not to overcome any cited references.

Claim 16 was amended by incorporating the limitation of Claim 8 to provide the proper antecedent basis for Claim 9. This amendment was not made to overcome any cited references. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. (Office Action dated 12/30/2003, page 2)

In particular, the Examiner has stated that “[c]laims 8, 9 recite the limitation “alkyl”. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims”. (Office Action dated 12/30/2003, page 2)

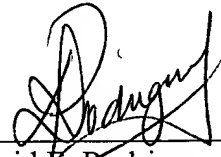
Applicants have amended Claim 16 to provide for the proper antecedent basis. Claim 8 has been cancelled as a result of the amendment to Claim 16. The Applicant respectfully requests a withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and an allowance of the claims.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 07-0888.

Respectfully submitted,

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